

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) Apparatus for making a packing material in the form of a string of air-filled packing cushions with rows of perforations extending across the material between ones of the chambers the cushions, comprising: means for feeding superposed layers of film material having longitudinally spaced, transversely extending rows of perforations along a path, means for injecting air between the two layers of film material, means for sealing the layers of film material together to form air-filled cushions between the rows of perforations, and means engagable with the string of air-filled cushions for partially tearing the material along the rows of perforations to facilitate tearing a desired number of the air-filled cushions from the string.

2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the means for partially tearing the material comprises a tear roller having an arcuate section which periodically engages an edge portion of the material and a section adjacent to the arcuate section which remains out of driving engagement the material.

3. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the means for partially tearing the material also includes a feed roller with a surface in continuous driving engagement with the material for feeding the material at a predetermined speed.

4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the tear roller is larger in diameter than the feed roller.

5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the tear roller rotates faster than the feed roller.

6. Cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of making a packing material in the form of a string of air-filled packing cushions with rows of perforations extending across the material between the cushions, comprising the steps of: feeding two superposed layers of film material having longitudinally spaced, transversely extending rows of perforations along a path, injecting air between the two layers of film material, sealing the layers of film material together to form air-filled cushions between the rows of perforations, and partially tearing the material along the rows of perforations ~~The method of Claim 6 wherein the material is torn by continuously engaging an edge portion of the material with a feed roller after the air-filled cushions are formed to feed the string of cushions at a predetermined speed and periodically exerting a abrupt pull on the material by engaging an edge portion of the material with a tear roller having an interrupted surface with an arcuate section which engages the material to exert the pull only during a portion of a rotation of the roller.~~

8. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 7 wherein the arcuate section travels faster than the predetermined speed.

9. (Previously Amended) Apparatus for making a string of air-filled packing cushions from an elongated strip of preconfigured film having a plurality of uninflated chambers formed between two layers of the film with rows of perforations extending across the film between successive ones of the chambers, comprising: means for injecting air between the layers to inflate the chambers, means for sealing the chambers to retain the air in them, means engagable with an edge portion of the film for feeding the film with the air-filled chambers along a path at a predetermined speed, and a tear roller having a surface that rotates faster than the predetermined speed and is intermittently engagable with the edge portion for exerting an abrupt periodic pull on the the edge which produces a partial tearing along the rows of perforations between the inflated chambers.

10. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the surface of the tear roller has an arcuate section which periodically engages the edge portion of the material and a section adjacent to the arcuate section which remains out of driving engagement the material.

11. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the means for feeding the film with the air-filled chambers at a predetermined speed comprises a feed roller with a surface in continuous driving engagement with the material.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the tear roller is larger in diameter than the feed roller.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the tear roller rotates faster than the feed roller.

14. (Previously Amended) A method of making a string of air-filled packing cushions from an elongated strip of preconfigured film having a plurality of uninflated chambers formed between two layers of the film with rows of perforations extending across the film between successive ones of the chambers, comprising the steps of: injecting air between the layers to inflate the chambers to form the cushions, sealing the chambers to retain the air in the cushions, feeding the material along a path at a predetermined speed, and intermittently engaging an edge portion of the material with a tear roller having a surface that travels faster than the predetermined speed for exerting an abrupt periodic pull on the material which produces a partial tearing along the rows of perforations between the inflated chambers.

15. (Previously Amended) Apparatus for pre-tearing a string of air-filled packing cushions having a plurality of longitudinally spaced air-filled chambers with rows of perforations extending across the material between successive ones of the chambers, comprising: means engagable with an edge portion of the material for feeding the string

of cushions at a predetermined speed, and a continuously rotating tear roller having a surface that rotates faster than the predetermined speed and periodically engages the edge portion and exerts an abrupt pull on the material which produces a partial tearing along the rows of perforations between the cushions.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein the surface of the tear roller has an arcuate section which periodically engages the edge portion of the material and a section adjacent to the arcuate section which remains out of driving engagement the material.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein the means for feeding the material at a predetermined speed comprises a feed roller with a surface in continuous driving engagement with the material.

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the tear roller is larger in diameter than the feed roller.

19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the tear roller rotates faster than the feed roller.

20. (Previously Amended) A method of pre-tearing a string of air-filled packing cushions having a plurality of longitudinally spaced air-filled chambers with rows of perforations extending across the material between successive ones of the chambers, comprising the steps of: engaging an edge portion of the material with a feed roller to feed the string of cushions at a predetermined speed in a direction generally perpendicular to the rows of perforations, and intermittently engaging the edge portion of the material with a continuously rotating tear roller having a surface that travels faster than the predetermined speed and periodically engages the material to exert an abrupt pull on the material to produce a partial tearing along the rows of perforations between the cushions.

21 - 23. Cancelled.